

stay was from the beginning of July to the end of the second week in August.

"A thorough and complete investigation was made," said Mr. MacKenzie. "There was the fullest and closest co-operation with Mr. Crossland's party, and while his business was primarily to investigate amounts and quality, we, in addition, looked into geologic formations."

The Provincial authorities, more than a year ago, asked the Dominion Government to send a geologist into that country, and in October, 1919, Dr. S. J. Schofield penetrated the Taseko Valley. The country was then covered with snow and he was, consequently, unable to make any examination. The entire district has been designated a reserve by the Provincial Government, and no new claims can be staked by prospectors. The area affected is several hundred square miles, embracing the Taseko and adjacent valleys.

"I am unable to make any statement yet as to values," Mr. MacKenzie stated recently at Vancouver. "The ores are derived from a pyrite, iron sulphide, which occurs in some places near the base of a great series of volcanic rocks, and these cover a very wide area in Central British Columbia. The iron has been extracted from the pyrite by a process of oxidation through the agency of atmospheric water. The iron has been carried down the slopes, above which the ledges of volcanic rock occur, and has been deposited in the flatter ground, where the degree of the slope lessens. Beds of limonite, sometimes known as bog iron ore, have as a result been formed, and these are lying on the surface of the ground."

The natural railway route into the Taseko country should follow the grade of the Taseko River, explained Mr. MacKenzie, then either along the old C. P. R. route, past Chilco and Tatlayoko Lakes, down the Homathko River to Bute Inlet. The other route would be by way of the Chilcotin River.

During September Mr. MacKenzie and party made a reconnaissance trip across the eastern coast mountains, past the headwaters of Tyaughton Creek, Churn Creek, the Yalakon River, down French Bar Creek to the Fraser River. There was some snow on the ground and only geological work in a general way could be undertaken. Nevertheless, it was the first geological survey undertaken of that country. The geologists were strongly impressed with the astonishing

climatic changes experienced when descending the last five miles of French Bar Creek into the Fraser Valley. They had left camp in the morning at an altitude of 5,400 feet, with snow on the ground and very cold; and inside of two hours had dropped several thousand feet from almost sub-arctic conditions into a district resembling Arizona or New Mexico. Under a broiling sun the sage bushes and bunch grass, with here and there cactus in the sandy plain, looked all the world like a tropical desert.

Boring operations, both at the site of the dam on Pidge River, and at the site of the powerhouse on Seton Lake, were being actively advanced by large gangs of men, working for the Bridge River Power Company, said Mr. MacKenzie. A tunnel will then be bored through Mission Mountain, connecting the two waters.

Work on the Cassiar Crown property is being continuously carried on, and the results are proving satisfactory to the operators and owners. On the tunnel contract taken a few weeks ago by Geo. Dugate, of Houston, about half the distance has been negotiated. This tunnel will be four hundred and fifty feet in length and at that point is expected to connect up with the big vein opened up last Summer and on which so much development and prospecting work has been done during the past year. If the ore is encountered on the new work it will give two hundred feet more depth than at the point where the ore was encountered.

Mr. P. Olesen, who a couple of weeks ago bonded the Ptarmigan, Rex and Monty groups of copper claims in the Hidden Creek, has now taken over, on a bond, the Granby No. 2 and 3, consisting of sixteen claims. This group immediately adjoins the Hidden Creek mines of the Granby Co. The price is \$700,000. The property is owned chiefly by William Hanna, and Charles Flood also owns a minor interest in it.

The owners of the Comet group of two mining claims on upper Bear River, Portland Canal district, have secured the services of A. E. Bryan, mining engineer, formerly with the Anaconda Co., of Butte, to superintend and manage the work of developing. Mr. Bryan spent some time on these properties last summer, and speaks in glowing terms of the immense surface showings and outcropping, the surface assays running much richer than the surface showings of the Premier.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Mineral Province of Western Canada

TO END OF DECEMBER, 1919

Has produced Minerals valued as follows: Placer Gold, \$75,722,603; Lode Gold, \$100,272,431; Silver, \$50,432,304; Lead, \$43,821,106; Copper, \$153,680,965; Other Metals (Zinc, Iron, etc.), \$17,605,405; Coal and Coke, \$199,123,323; Building Stone, Brick, Cemet, etc., \$29,991,757; making its Mineral Production to the end of 1919 show an

Aggregate Value of \$670,649,894

Production for Year Ending December, 1919, \$33,296,313

The Mining Laws of this Province are more liberal and the fees lower than those of any other Province in the Dominion, or any colony in the British Empire.

Mineral locations are granted to discoverers for nominal fees.

Absolute Titles are obtained by developing such properties, the security of which is guaranteed by Crown Grants.

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